

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02342 120954Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAB-02 EB-08 COME-00
L-03 FAA-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----053149 121158Z /53

P R 120758Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1963
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2342

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PN, FI
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GENERAL TORRIJOS TO FINLAND

REF: PANAMA 6905

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PANAMANIAN LEADER GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS WAS IN FINLAND OCTOBER 9 AND 10. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NICHOLAS GONZALEZ, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RUBEN DARIO PAREDES AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL BANK RICARDO DE LA ESPRIELLA.

2. DURING HIS BRIEF 24-HOUR STAY, GENERAL TORRIJOS
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CALLED ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, PRIME MINISTER SORSA AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JOHANNES VIROLAINEN HOSTED A LUNCH FOR TORRIJOS OCTOBER 10.

3. TORRIJOS SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS UPON HIS ARRIVAL. ON OCTOBER 10 HE GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE

AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER ILTA SANOMAT AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AIRPORT JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR BONN. IN HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS TORRIJOS EXPRESSED PANAMA'S SATISFACTION WITH THE CANAL TREATIES, WHICH HE SAID SATISFY PANAMANIAN NATIONAL PRIDE. HE SAID THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE UNITED STATES WOULD AVOID A "SUEZ CANAL" SITUATION. HE PREDICTED THAT PANAMANIAN VOTERS WOULD EASILY APPROVE THE REFERENDUM ON THE TREATIES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION TORRIJOS SAID THAT REJECTION OF THE TREATY BY THE US SENATE WOULD BE SERIOUS, SAYING THAT IN THAT EVENTUALITY IT IS NOT A CASE OF WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA WOULD DO BUT, RATHER, WHAT THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA WOULD DO. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION HE SAID PANAMA WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY SENATOR CHURCH OR ANY OTHER OFFICIAL INTERESTED IN PANAMA'S VIEWS. HE DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO A QUESTION THAT SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE TREATIES IN WASHINGTON AND PANAMA.

4. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PRESS, TORRIJOS TOURED THE VALMET SHIPYARDS, EXPRESSING PANAMANIAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING SHIPS FOR RIVER TRANSPORT; VISITED THE OUTOKUMPU COPPER COMPANY WHICH IS INTERESTED IN SELLING A COPPER SMELTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANT TO PANAMA; AND DISCUSSED WITH FINNAIR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN PANAMA AND EUROPE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES INDICATED THAT OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH TORRIJOS FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY UPON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. THEY SAID THAT THE POSITIONS EXPRESSED IN PRIVATE BY TORRIJOS WERE THE SAME AS THOSE HE HAD GIVEN PUBLICLY TO THE PRESS. IN SHORT HIS VISIT TO FINLAND RESULTED IN NO VISIBLE SURPRISES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HELSIN02342
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770371-0600
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